

Application No. 10/791,386  
Responsive to Office action dated August 14, 2007

Attorney Docket No. FS-F03230-01

**Remarks**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

**Paragraph 5: rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent 6,335,153 to Toya et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0081956 to Stoebe, and U.S. Patent 6,475,715 to Harai et al.**

This rejection is respectfully traversed. In making the rejection, the Examiner stated that Toya discloses an image-forming apparatus having a laser beam scanner for exposure and a heat development portion, that Stoebe discloses the process of forming an image using photothermal film, and Harai discloses the photothermographic material used in the process of the present invention. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to reconfigure a heat development apparatus by combining Toya, Stoebe, and Harai, although Toya does not disclose that the distance between the scanning exposure portion and an insertion part of the thermal development portion is 50 cm or less.

However, the Stoebe apparatus does not provide imaging according to the present invention. Element 9 of Stoebe is not used for forming an image as can be seen from the description in Stoebe on page 17, paragraph [107]: "This film is then loaded into the thrust cartridge, and the thrust cartridge is inserted into a camera and imagewise exposed to a full color test scene. The film is then rewound into the thrust cartridge, removed from the camera, and inserted into the chamber for accepting the thrust cartridge of the apparatus of the invention" (emphasis added). Further, the disclosure in paragraphs [0077] to [0079] relates to optical writers that provide spatially calibrated exposure. This exposure does not form an image and is used merely for calibration.

Therefore, the combination of Stoebe to Toya does not yield an apparatus with a scanning exposure portion and a thermal developing portion of 50 cm or less. Therefore, it is not seen how a person of ordinary skill could perform the claimed method in view of this combination of references.

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The reference to Harai relates to the composition of a photothermographic material, but does not cure the deficiencies of Toya in view of Stoebe. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 14, 2008